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WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1951.

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Westhoughton Urban District Council.

Public Health Committee

Chairman: Mrs. W. Kettle J.P., C.C.

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Ormesher.

Councillors:

Mrs. Ashworth	H. Nickson
W. Dickinson	T. West
J. Higson	A.G. Woods

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

* T. Patton Sewell, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. V.U. Manc.

Sanitary Inspector:

J. Occleshaw, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistant:

Miss E.A. Gerrard.

* Also Divisional Medical Officer: Divisional Health Committee No. 11, Lancashire County Council.

Divisional School Medical Officer
Lancashire County Council.

Medical Officer of Health:

Borough of Leigh,
Urban District of Atherton,
" " " Horwich,
" " " Tyldesley.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Westhoughton.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Health Committee

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Westhoughton for the year 1951, together with certain statistical information thereto, for your information and consideration.

As you will see the Report has been completely re-arranged, sectionalised, and additional matter included.

STATISTICS:

The population of the district in 1951 was 14,900, a decrease on the figure ascertained at the census in 1931.

During the year a total of 178 births were registered, of which 4 were still births, so that the Live Birth Rate for the year under review is 11.8 as against 12.6 the previous year, and the Still Birth Rate 22 as against 45 in 1950.

Three infants failed to survive to their first birthday giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 17 for the year, as against 4 deaths and a rate of 22 the previous year.

I am pleased to be able to report that, for the fifth year in succession, there has been no maternal death so that the Maternal Mortality Rate remains at nil.

The number of deaths, from all causes, was 197 giving a Crude Death Rate of 13.2.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Scheme, 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district, details of which will be found in Section B of the Report.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

As previously the sanitary circumstances in the district have been kept under close supervision details of which will be found in Section C.

FOOD

Similarily the inspection of milk supplies and other foodstuffs have been active, see Section D.

HOUSING

Housing, for reasons of which you are well aware has remained a most difficult health and social problem. Demolition of old and insanitary property will, however, be extended as and when circumstances permit.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Scarlet Fever and Measles have been fairly prevalent, as elsewhere, but there has been no serious outbreak of notifiable infectious or contagious disease. Details will be found at Section F.

Yours sincerely,

T. PATTON SEWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.

GENERAL

Area of the district, in acres	-	5,554
Population - 1951, Estimated	-	14,900
" - 1931, Census	-	16,018
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of year	-	4,737
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	£277

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

		Male	Female	Total
(a) Live births -	Legitimate	82	93	175
	Illegitimate	2	1	3
	Total	84	94	178

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) - 11·8.

(b) Still births		1	3	4

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 22.

(c) Total Births	85	97	182

DEATHS

(a) Infantile -	Neonatal	- 2
	Other	- 1
	Total	3

Neo-natal Death Rate (per 1,000 live births) - 11

Total Infantile Mortality Rate (" " ") - 17

DEATHS (Cont'd).

(b) Maternal	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil
(c) Cancer	21
(d) Measles	Nil
(e) Whooping Cough	Nil
(f) Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil
(g) Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	8
Non pulmonary	3
(h) All Causes:-	
Male	98
Female	99
Total	197

Death Rate (per 1,000 population)

(a) Crude	-	13·2
(b) Adjusted	-	13·9

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1946 - 51.

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1951	178	11.9	197	13.2	4	22	Nil	Nil	3	17	2	11
Year 1950	189	12.6	197	13.1	9	45	Nil	Nil	4	21	2	11
" 1949	197	13.2	164	11.0	9	44	Nil	Nil	7	36	-	-
" 1948	227	15.1	170	11.3	5	21	Nil	Nil	4	17	-	-
" 1947	268	17.9	180	12.0	14	49	Nil	Nil	12	44	-	-
" 1946	243	16.5	200	13.5	16	61	1	3.86	10	41	-	-
Average 5 years 1946 - 1950	-	15.1	-	12.2	-	45	-	0.85	-	33	-	-

The following table gives the number of deaths from the various causes during the year 1951:-

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus and lymphatic neoplasms	5	10	15
Leukaemia aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	14	23
Coronary disease, angina	19	7	26
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	32	33	65
Other circulatory diseases	1	3	4
Influenza	3	9	12
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	5	3	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	14	25
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Total	98	99	197

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No material change.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Ambulance Service

Atherton Ambulance Station - Tel. Atherton 165.
Horwich " " - " Horwich 673. Lancs. C.C.

Care of Children - Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancs. C.C. - Area 9.
Area Children's Officer - Miss D.B. Roberts, Hyde Lodge,
Clarendon Rd., Eccles.
Tel. Eccles 1877.

Clinics

1. Antenatal

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Thursday 9.30 - 12.0a.m. (Lancs. C.C.).

2. Diphtheria Immunisation

(a) General Practioner Service,
(b) Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton, by appointment.
(Lancs. C.C.).

3. Maternity and Child Welfare

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Tuesday and Thursday 1.45 - 4.0p.m.
(Lancs. C.C.).

4. Ophthalmic

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
1st & 3rd Wednesday a.m. each month.
Last Friday a.m. " "
(Lancs. C.C.).

5. Orthopaedic

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
1st Wednesday each month.
(Lancs. C.C.).

6. Orthoptic

Orthoptic Clinic, 5. Market Place, Leigh.
by appointment. (Lancs. C.C.).

7. Postnatal

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Thursday 9.30. - 12.0a.m.

(Lancs. C.C.).

8. School Health and Minor Ailment.

School Health Clinic, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Monday and Thursday a.m.

(Lancs. C.C.).

9. Speech Therapy

No local facilities.

10. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic

(a) Church Street, Leigh.
(b) Civic Centre, Bolton.

(Hospital Board).

11. Veneral Diseases

(a) Civic Centre, Bolton.
Males and Females:-
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.
2.00p.m. - 7.30p.m.

(b) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males - Wednesday 2p.m. - 7p.m.
Females - " 2p.m. - 4p.m.
4.30p.m. - 7p.m.

(Hospital Board).

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

Health Visiting Service

A Health Visitor/School Nurse is employed full-time by the Lancs. C.C. in the district.

Home Help Service

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. apply to the Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service

Two District Nurses are employed full-time in the District by the Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals

Royal Infirmary Bolton;
Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth;
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other general and infectious disease hospitals situated in the area of the Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Laboratory facilities at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries, and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Maternity Homes

"Haslam", "Havercroft" and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton. "Firs" Maternity Home, Leigh.

(Hospital Board).

Midwifery Service

Two full-time domiciliary midwives are employed in the district by the Lancs. C.C.

Nursing Homes

Newlands Nursing Home, Chorley New Road, Bolton.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange and Townleys Annexe. Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh. No hostels in the district.

Xray Facilities

Available at the Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries. Special facilities for chest Xray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply

Bolton Corporation supply the district with water which is derived from upland gathering grounds, and this is treated and filtered before going into supply. The water is of good quality but being soft in nature there is a tendency to plumbo solvent action and all lead service piping is tin lined. All dwellings are supplied directly with water from the mains but from the point of view of quantity the supply to the higher parts of the district is distinctly poor and the trouble is becoming more acute as new houses are built in the lower part of the area.

The water is bacteriologically examined at Manchester and Bolton and 10 samples were examined during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage

This is on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Rogers Farm and three subsidary plants at Dicconson Lane, Dog Holes Farm and Marsh Brook respectively.

Closet Accommodation

At the end of 1951 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows:-

Number of Privy Middens	87
Number of closets attached to these middens	114
Number of Pail Closets	12
Number of Dry Ashpits	72
Number of moveable Ashbins	4777
Number of Trough Closets (4 installations, Schools)	4
Number of Waste Water Closets	61
Number of Fresh Water Closets	5034

Conversions during 1951.

Number of Privy Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	4
Number of Privy Closets to Pails	2
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	1
Number of Premises at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles.	6

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, three motor vehicles being employed.

The privy middens which are situate in unsewered portions of the district are emptied regularly, all refuse being disposed of by controlled tipping.

Street scavenging is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is done with manual labour.

Salvage

The collection of paper, textiles and kitchen waste was maintained throughout the year and income from this source amounted to £2868.

Sanitary Inspections

Premises visited	2465
Number of visits:-	5146
Housing and Nuisances	1437
Factories	257
Infectious Diseases	39
Rodent Control	24
Offensive Trades	87
Schools	325
Shops	534
Bakehouses	159
Fish Friers	45
Butchers Shops	590
Ice Cream Premises	130
Miscellaneous	1519
Defects or Nuisances:-	
Number discovered	689
Nuber abated	598
No. of Notices served:-	
Informal	319
Statutory	16

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Outwork

There are no outworkers in the district.

Shops and Offices

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and sanitary accommodation, but 325 inspections of shops have been carried out on behalf of the Lancashire County Council.

Smoke Abatement

Eighteen observations were taken during the year but no action was taken as a result of these.

Offensive Trades

We have one tripe dresser and one fat melter within the district and these premises are regularly visited.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common Lodging Houses in the district.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Disinfestation

Five houses were found to be infested with bugs and were dealt with by spraying with a liquid insecticide containing 5% D.D.T.

Schools

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and regular colour washing of the conveniences is carried out. Four schools still have trough closets in use, 325 inspections have been made of the sanitary accommodation.

Factories &c.

Regular visits were paid to factories.

Inspections	On Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuting
Premises without mechanical power.	11	28	-	-
Premises with mechanical power.	68	161	4	-
Other Premises	2	12	-	-
	81	201	4	-

Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	8	8
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences	8	7

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There are no premises in the area where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Rodent Control

During 1951 the work of rodent control continued, one part-time operative being employed.

All rat and mice infestations are promptly dealt with, private dwellings without conditions conducive to infestation, being treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used.

Thirty six surface infestations were dealt with and in addition the sewers and sewage works in the district were systematically treated twice, in February and August.

Camping Sites

There are no licenced sites in the district. One van dweller was prosecuted and fined for occupying a site for more than 60 days.

SECTION D.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply

There are 72 cow keepers in the district four of which produce graded milk. The milk produced on these premises was sampled on 269 occasions. Six farmers from the outside districts retail raw milk in the area and these supplies were sampled on 19 occasions.

A total of 286 samples were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli and of these 16 or 5.6% were found to be positive.

One milk supply was diverted for heat treatment.

All milk supplied to schools is heat treated.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, 51 persons were granted dealers licences to sell sterilised milk and 4 persons to sell pasteurised milk. Two dealers licences for sale of Tuberculin Tested milk were also issued.

Action taken by local authority in relation to samples taken in the district:-

(a) Raw Milk

(i) Tuberculosis - biological test

No. of samples ..286.. No. negative ..270.. No. positive ..16...

(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test

No. of samples ..314.. No. satisfactory ..296..No. Unsatisfact..18...

(b) "Heat treated" milk -"Pasteurised"

(i) Phosphatase test

No. of samples ...10.. No. satisfactory ...10..No. Unsatisfact...-....

(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test

No. of samples ...10.. No. satisfactory ...10..No. Unsatisfact...-....

"Sterilised"

(iii) Turbidity test

No. of samples ....6.. No. satisfactory ....6..No. Unsatisfact....-..

No. of notifications of tuberculous milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of :-

(a) milk produced in the district... 14

(b) milk produced in other districts 2

Result of Ministry investigations within the district during the year arising from notifications by the local authority:-

No. of veterinary inspections 18

No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938... 12

No. of animals seized. 14

No. of cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to investigation 2

No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized... .... -

Ice Cream

37 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream which is mainly "prepacked".

120, samples were collected and submitted for examination 16 of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

Where samples on examination were found to be below Grade II special visits were made to those premises situated within the area. In the case of samples from a source outside the district the appropriate local authority was informed and follow-up samples taken.

Shell Fish

No cases of illness due to consumption of shell fish were reported.

Food Premises

All shops, stalls, vans, food stores, food preparing premises are inspected regularly as part of routine work.

Bakehouses

31 Bakehouses are registered in the district and are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition, 159 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

Meat

The slaughter-houses in the district are out of use but the carcases of 21 pigs which were slaughtered under the Self Suppliers Scheme were examined.

Meat retailers premises are inspected regularly 590 inspections being carried out.

Food Condemned

The following foodstuffs were condemned and surrendered:-

Cooked Ham	449 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	11 tins
Beef	70 lbs
Salmon	93 tins
Fish (Cod)	35 lbs
Eggs (Frozen)	368 lbs
Plums	39 tins
Peaches, Pineapple &c.	9 "
Milk	35 "
Tomatoes	25 "
Cheese (Processed)	85 packets
Peas	6 tins
Syrup	6 "
Sweet Corn	2 "
Nuts (Almonds)	72 lbs.

In addition the following foodstuffs were returned to the Ministry of Food for processing.

Butter	$5\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Food Poisoning

No cases have been reported.

SECTION E.

Housing

Statistics

28 houses were completed on Hindley's Estate No. 8 out of 40 houses on contract. Work on the erection of 24 houses(Hindley's No. 9), comprising 12 x 2 and 12 x 3 bedroom type houses was begun in December, 1951.

Provisional arrangements in hand for the erection of 36 houses on Hindley's Estate No. 11 and 4 shops with maisonnettes during 1952.

Conditions - General Observations

Of the older houses in the district most consist of the four room cottage type, built in terraced rows. These are moderately well maintained but lack such amenities as baths and hot water installations.

Quite a few of these houses are now owner-occupied and in addition to being well maintained have been considerably improved.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses

There were 410 applicants on the Council's Housing List, of these 255 were without separate homes and 155 were householders.

Fitness of Houses

Notices for essential repairs are continually being served by the Health Department, nevertheless there is a gradual decline in the standard of house maintenance as the high cost of repairs makes it difficult for owners to carry out works on controlled rents.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Chicken Pox

The disease is not notifiable in the district.

Diphtheria

No case occured in the district.

The number of cases of, and deaths from, diphtheria throughout England and Wales have shown a remarkable reduction during the past 10 years - the period when active immunisation against it has been practiced on a large scale. From being one of the most serious causes of death and illness of children in this Country, diphtheria has now been reduced to a position of numerical insignificance. In the year 1901 almost 10,000 persons died from the disease. In 1951 only 32 died from the same cause. Each year sees an ever increasing number of localities reporting no cases and no deaths. Of the 83 County Boroughs in England and Wales 28 reported no deaths from diphtheria during the year 1946. Four years later 70 authorities reported no deaths and 33 no cases even.

Even so the need to continue diphtheria immunisation remains. If continued it is possible that the disease may be eradicated. If discontinued the disease may remain endemic indefinitely with the ever present risk of a return to epidemics and a high mortality.

Dysentery

One case only was notified.

Acute Infectious Encephalitis

No case reported.

Erysipelas

No case reported.

Food Poisoning

This disease is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act. No case was notified.

Malaria

No new or recurrent case reported.

Measles

A total of 35 notifications were received as against 132 the previous year. The disease was again mild in character no untoward complications were reported, no case justified admission to hospital and all recovered.

Meningococcal Infection No case notified.

Paratyphoid Fever No case notified.

Pneumonia

The number of cases increased from 6 in 1950 to 17 this year. Three died as against 5 the previous year.

Polioencephalitis No case notified.

Poiliomyelitis ("Infantile Paralysis") No case notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia

One case cccured and was removed to hospital.

Owing to the improved methods of treatment now available it has been necessary to amend the legal definition of this disease for purposes of notification.

Scarlet Fever

Forty cases occured as against 30 in 1950. Again the disease was mild in character, no complications were reported, only 4 had to be admitted to hospital and all recovered.

Smallpox No case or contact reported.

Tuberculosis

Seven new cases of respiratory and 3 of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year as against 3 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory the previous year. Only one death, from pulmonary disease, occured.

Whooping Cough

Seven cases of whooping cough were notified as against 37 the previous year. The disease was again mild in character, no case justified admission to hospital and all recovered.

Cases of infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year, 1951.

	Cases Notified										Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Diphtheria	-											
Dysentery	1						1					
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-											
Erysipelas	-											
Food Poisoning	-											
Measles	35	1	13	17	4							
Meningococcal Infection	-											
Pneumonia	17						1	2	7	7	3	1
Polioencephalitis	-											
Poliomyelitis	-											
Puerperal Pyrexia	1							1				1
Scarlet Fever	40		7	11	18	1	3					4
Small Pox	-											
Whooping Cough	7	1	3	3								
Total	101	2	23	31	22	1	5	3	7	7	3	6

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1951.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1		1	1					
5		1						
10				2				
15		1						
20		1						
25								
35	1							
45								
55					1			
65 and upwards		2						
	1	6	1	2	1	-	-	-
Total	7		3		1		Nil	